

Application No.: 09/760,169
Filing Date: January 12, 2001
Page: 8

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11 are pending in the application. Claims 12 through 18 were cancelled within the Office Action of August 27, 2003.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the most helpful teleconference granted by the Examiner in November.

Claim 1 has accordingly been amended to emphasize that the films of the invention are biaxially oriented. Support for this amendment can be found in the application as filed, for example on Page 17, last paragraph, first and second sentences.

Claim 1 has further been amended to recite that the yellowness index is measured in accordance with DIN 6167, as requested by the Examiner. Support for amended Claim 1 can be found in the application as filed, for example on Page 20, third paragraph in its entirety.

Applicants respectfully submit that this response does not raise new issues, but merely places the above-referenced application either in condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better form for appeal. Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

Application No.: 09/760,169
Filing Date: January 12, 2001
Page: 9

Amendments to the Specification

The Office Action objected to format of the trademarked terms "Hazeguard plus," and "Sylobloc," within the specification. These terms have been capitalized throughout the specification and accompanied by generic terminology. All references to "Tinuvin" and "Amgard" have similarly been amended.

In that regard, the Examiner's attention is kindly directed to the following replacement paragraphs: the first paragraph beginning on Page 19; the third paragraph on Page 19; the first and second full paragraphs on Page 21; the fourth and fifth full paragraphs on Page 21; the second paragraph on Page 22; the second and third paragraphs on Page 24; and the last paragraph on Page 24.

Objection to the Claims

The claims have been amended to insert the standardized method used to obtain the claimed yellowness value, as suggested by the Examiner.

The Amended Claims are Patentable In Light of the Art of Record

Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 8 stand rejected as being unpatentable over German Patent No. DE 19630599 to Murschall et al. ("Murschall") in view of United States Patent No. 5,936,048 to Oishi et al. ("Oishi"). Claim 3 stands rejected over Murschall modified by Oishi, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,251,505 to Rakos et al. ("Rakos"). Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected over Murschall as modified by Oishi, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,866,246 to Schreck et al. ("Schreck") and United States Patent No. 5,008,313 to Kishida et al. ("Kishida"). Claims 1, 7, 9 and

Application No.: 09/760,169
Filing Date: January 12, 2001
Page: 10

11 stand rejected over Murschall and further in view of Schreck et al., Kishida et al. and United States Patent No. 4,551,485 to Ragan et al. ("Ragan").

Murschall is directed to polyethylene terephthalate cast sheet. As noted by the Examiner, the Murschall reference discloses that the film is un-oriented, although (as further noted by the Examiner) extrusion processes are capable of inducing a minor amount of monoaxial orientation in the machine direction.

In contrast to Murschall, the claims as amended recite biaxially oriented films. The biaxially oriented films of the invention would provide altogether different physical properties from the un-oriented films of Murschall. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentable in light of Murschall, considered either alone or in combination with the art of record.

Oishi is generally directed to methods for preparing modified polymer resins. Oishi teaches that his resins may be used to form injection molded articles or fibers. However, Oishi does not teach or suggest the recited biaxially oriented films. Applicants further respectfully reiterate that Oishi's compound B, believed to be highly colored, would be unsuitable for use within the recited transparent films.

Applicants respectfully submit that there would have been no motivation to have combined these references. However, even if combined (which Applicants submit should not be done), the claimed invention would not have resulted. More particularly, the claimed transparent films would not have resulted, and most certainly not the recited transparent, biaxially oriented films.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 8 are patentable in light of Oishi, considered either alone or in combination with Murschall.

Application No.: 09/760,169
Filing Date: January 12, 2001
Page: 11

Rakos is generally directed to the use of silica to induce light diffusion in composite films. Rakos merely broadly notes that a range of additives may be included within the composite films. Rakos does not teach or suggest the recited low-flammability, UV-resistant films, and most certainly not such films incorporating UV stabilizer which is thermally stable at temperatures exceeding 240°C.

Applicants respectfully submit that there similarly would have been no motivation to have combined these references. However, even if combined (which Applicants submit should not be done), the claimed invention would not have resulted. More particularly, the claimed low-flammability, UV resistant films would not have resulted, and most certainly not the recited low-flammability, UV resistant, biaxially oriented films.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 3 is patentable in light of Rakos, considered either alone or in combination with the art.

Schreck is generally directed to non-transparent films. Consequently, Schreck does not teach or suggest the recited transparent films of the invention, and most certainly not the transparent, biaxially oriented films of the claimed invention.

Kishida is generally directed to improved impact modifiers. Kishida is silent as to the ultimate form his resins take, merely referencing the use of injection-molded samples within his examples. Consequently, Kishida does not teach or suggest the biaxially oriented films of the amended claims.

Again, Applicants respectfully submit that there similarly would have been no motivation to have combined these references. However, even if combined (which Applicants submit should not be done), the claimed invention would not have resulted. More particularly, the claimed transparent films would not have resulted, and most certainly not the recited transparent, biaxially oriented films.

Application No.: 09/760,169
Filing Date: January 12, 2001
Page: 12

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9 and 10 are patentable in light of Schreck and Kishida, considered either alone or in combination with Murschall or Oishi.

Ragan is generally directed to the use of a small amount of silane to improve the impact resistance of reinforced molding compositions. Ragan notes that his compositions may be molded, particularly Injection molded, into finished articles. Consequently, Ragan similarly does not teach or suggest the recited biaxially oriented films of the amended claims.

Again, Applicants respectfully submit that there similarly would have been no motivation to have combined these references. However, even if combined (which Applicants submit should not be done), the claimed invention would not have resulted. More particularly, the claimed biaxially oriented films would not have resulted.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 are patentable in light of Ragan, considered either alone or in combination with Murschall, Schreck or Kishida.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable in light of the cited art, considered either alone or in combination.

Application No.: 09/760,169
Filing Date: January 12, 2001
Page: 13

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 11 are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, the fees are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

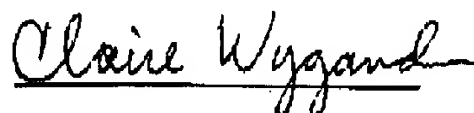
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to facsimile number (703)872-9306 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 3, 2004.



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